**Letters of Support Needed for AB 69 to Senate Human Services Committee**

Assembly Member Beall has introduced AB 69, CalFresh Senior Nutrition Benefits, a bill to direct the California Department of Social Services to permit counties to work in conjunction with the Social Security Administration to enroll eligible Social Security recipients into CalFresh. AB 69 proposes to:

* Increase senior enrollment in CalFresh
* Draw in federal dollars to boost the State economy
* Become a national model for senior enrollment by focusing on a new senior population: Social Security recipients

**AB 69 has made it through the Assembly and will be heard in the Senate Human Services Committee on June 28th. We are asking supporters to fax letters of support to the Senate Human Services Committee (and to send a copy of their letters to CFPA):**

**Senate Human Services Committee**

**Chairwoman Liu, Chair**

**State Capitol, Room 5061**

**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**Fax: (916) 327-9478**

CC: California Food Policy Advocates

436 14th St., Suite 1220

Oakland, CA 94612

Fax: (510) 433-1131

[Kerry@cfpa.net](mailto:Kerry@cfpa.net)

We encourage organizations, groups, and individuals to use the sample letter below or write their own letters of support. Questions? Contact Kerry Birnbach at 510-433-1122x110

June 8, 2011

The Honorable Carol Liu

Chair, Senate Human Services Committee

State Capitol, Room 5061

Sacramento, CA 94249-0039

Re: Support for AB 69

Dear Chairwoman Liu,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *[insert name of your organization]* supports AB 69, legislation to direct the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to permit counties to work in conjunction with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to enroll eligible Social Security recipients into CalFresh. Through data sharing, standardized benefits, and simplified applications, this bill could increase senior enrollment in CalFresh.

We support AB 69 because *(choose one, more, or all of the following reasons)*:

* **It targets the senior population that is growing, and widely under participating in CalFresh.** Currently, CalFresh is underutilized by seniors in California, and among households with a Social Security recipient, utilization is even smaller. Ten percent of eligible seniors participate in CalFresh and yet only five percent of eligible households with a Social Security recipient participate. There are 444,000 households with Social Security recipients over the age of 60 that are eligible for CalFresh- the need is great.
* **Similar outreach and enrollment strategies have worked in other states.** Other states have operated Combined Application Projects (CAPs), which target Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients for SNAP (the Food Stamp Program known as CalFresh in California), or used other innovative approaches. Although SSI recipients are ineligible for CalFresh in California, the approaches other states used in CAPs may prove successful if applied to other California senior populations.
* **AB 69 would bring more federal dollars into the California economy.** Seniors would not be the only ones to benefit from CalFresh. My county loses approximately $\_\_\_\_ *[insert your county’s number from* [*this report*](http://www.cfpa.net/LDEP_2010/main.html)*]* in federal food stamp benefits that could be going directly back into the economy, supporting grocers, growers, and local government. According to the Unites States Department of Agriculture (USDA), every dollar in CalFresh benefits generates $1.79 in economic activity. AB 69 presents a great opportunity to bring in more than $425 million federal dollars into California during these tough economic times, while also ensuring that seniors are receiving proper nutrition.
* **I believe my community, in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ county, *(insert your county name)* could benefit from this because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

We urge this committee to pass AB 69. California seniors cannot afford to lose out on valuable federal nutrition support.

Sincerely,

Your name

Your organization

cc.  [Your own Senator](http://192.234.213.69/amapsearch/framepage.asp), if on the Human Services Committee (see [committee link](http://shum.senate.ca.gov/))

California Food Policy Advocates